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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/385,834	08/30/1999	JEFFREY L. C. WRIGHT	76891	9704

7590

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WELSH & KATZ LTD  
120 SOUTH RIVERSIDE PLAZA 22ND FLOOR  
CHICAGO, IL 60606

EXAMINER

QAZI, SABIHA NAIM

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1616

DATE MAILED: 04/26/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/385,834

Applicant(s)

WRIGHT, JEFFREY L. C.

Examiner

Sabiha Naim Qazi

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 April 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 5-11, 34 and 39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1, 5-11, 34 and 39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Office Action on Merits**

Claims 1, 5-11, 34 and 39 are pending and are rejected.

No claim is allowed.

Response and brief filed in paper no. 15, dated 2/4/02 is hereby acknowledged. Finality of the action mailed in paper no. 13, dated 6/29/01 is withdrawn because new rejections are made. All the rejections are withdrawn because arguments are found persuasive.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

Claims 1, 5-11, 34 and 39 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The term "comprising" cited in claim 1 is inclusive and fails to exclude unrecited steps. The use of the term comprising to introduce claimed structure means that the ingredients covered by these claims may involve more elements than those positively recited. *Ex parte Gottzein et al.*, 168 USPQ 176 (PTO Bd. App. 1969). Comprising leaves the claim open for inclusion of unspecified ingredients even in major amounts. *Ex parte Davis et al.*, 80 USPQ 448 (PTO Bd. App. 1948).

Claims 1, 5-11, 34 and 39 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as

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to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Stearidonic acid cited in amended claim 1 is not found in specification. This is considered new matter.

Since there is a lack of guidance present in the specification, the skilled artisan would have to undertake undue experimentation to practice the claimed invention commensurate with the scope of the claims.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patent ability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patent ability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

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consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1, 5-11, 34 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Kutney et al. (UD Patent 5,770,749) and Kamarei et al. (US Patent 4,879,312). col. 2). See the entire documents.

**1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.**

**Prior art teaches a composition which embraces applicants claimed invention.**

Kutney teach that phytosterols are effective in lowering plasma cholesterol levels. See lines 1-5, col. 2; lines 1-16, col. 4. Kamarei et al. teach that a diet rich in omega-3-fatty acids has beneficial effects in humans, including a reduction in plasma cholesterol and triglyceride levels, improved fat tolerance, prolonged bleeding time reduce platelet counts and decreased platelet adhesiveness. The omega-3-fatty acids are obtained mainly from dietary seafood. It teach n-3 Poly unsaturated fatty acids (PUFA)

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participation and reasons why these materials may be involved in alleviating ischemic heart diseases.

Furthermore, it also teaches that one of n-3 PUFA i.e. eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) reduces triglyceride and very low-density lipoprotein (VLDL) serum levels and reduces whole blood viscosity. (See lines 39-59, col. 2)

**2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.**

Instant claims differ from the reference in claiming a nutritional supplement by employing combination of phytosterols and an n-3 omega fatty acid, i.e. eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA), docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) and stearidonic acid (SA).

**3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.**

Therefore, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to employ phytosterols in combination with omega-3-fatty acids in composition and methods for lowering cholesterol and triglycerides in blood stream of a subject, because these agents are known individually for the treatment of the same disorders.

**4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.**

The combination of agents, each of which is known for the same purpose, is considered *prima facie* obvious. At least additive therapeutic results would be expected. See *In re Kerkhoven* 205 U.S. P.Q. 1069.

Motivation is to prepare additional beneficial composition of sterols with omega-3-fatty acids useful for lowering the cholesterol and triglyceride levels, because this use

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has been taught by the prior art. It is known in the art that fish oil contains EPA and DHA.

In the light of the forgoing discussion, the Examiner's ultimate legal conclusion is that the subject matter defined by the instant claims would have been obvious within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

### **Telephonic Inquiry**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sabiha Naim Qazi whose telephone number is 703-305-3910. The examiner can normally be reached on First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jose Dees can be reached on 703-308-4628. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-4556 for regular communications and 703-308-4556 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1235.

April 25, 2002



**SABIHA QAZI, PH.D  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**